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KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1957

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1 9 5 7

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR H. DOOLITTLE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT

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 „ T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

R.W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk :

Mrs. J. E. JOHNSON

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer : E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1957.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1957	12,560
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	3,897
Rateable Value	£118,104
Sum represented by a penny rate	£462

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

					1957	1956		
Births.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	Live Births :	Legitimate	...	78	82	160	155	
		Illegitimate	...	1	3	4	6	
	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population					13	13.3	
	Birth rate for England and Wales					16.1	15.7	
(b)	Still Births :	Legitimate	...	2	1	3	3	
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	0	
Deaths.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	No. registered for District	...	70	41	111	126		
	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					8.8	10.4	
	Death rate for England and Wales					11.5	11.7	
(b)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					25	17	
	Deaths for Measles (all ages)					0	0	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					0	0	
(c)	Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	1	0	
(d)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)					4	2	
	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :							
	All Infants per 1,000 live births					24.3	12.4	
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					18.7	12.9	
	Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births					23.1	23.8	

Cause of Death.								M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			...	...	...	—	—
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis			...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases			...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria			...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough			...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections			...	...	...	—	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis			...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles			...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach			...	...	...	1	2
11.	" " Lung, Bronchus			...	...	...	5	2
12.	" " Breast			...	...	...	—	2
13.	" " Uterus			...	...	...	—	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			...	...	...	6	6
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia			...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes			...	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System			...	...	...	14	7
18.	Coronary Disease Angina			...	...	...	9	2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease			...	...	...	2	—
20.	Other Heart Disease			...	...	...	9	8
21.	Other Circulatory Disease			...	...	...	3	—
22.	Influenza			...	...	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia			...	...	...	4	—
24.	Bronchitis			...	...	...	5	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System			...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum			...	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea			...	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis			...	...	...	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate			...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			...	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital Malformations			...	...	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			...	...	...	2	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents			...	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents			...	...	...	3	2
35.	Suicide			...	...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War			...	...	...	—	—
All causes								70	41

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Mrs. J. E. Johnson as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 90 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by :

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
- (5) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 19 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES TO PREMISES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc.	
	Direct to Premises		By Means of Standpipe			
	No. of Premises	Population	No. of Premises	Population	No. of Premises	Population
Wolverley	1051	3,678	162	361	53	169
Upper Arley	130	455	119	230	107	340
Ribbesford	8	30	—	—	18	57
Churchill and Blake- down	371	1,298	—	—	18	63
Rock	479	1,677	158	505	99	290
Broome	49	171	—	—	22	70
Stone	82	287	—	—	41	100
Rushock	26	91	—	—	28	98
Kidderminster Foreign	101	291	207	600	74	236
Chaddesley Corbett ...	401	1,353	45	137	48	173
Totals	2,698	9,331	691	1,833	508	1,596

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 691 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, and camping sites.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Wolverley and Cookley Sewerage Scheme is proving most satisfactory. There remain a few properties to be connected, including the Wolverley Elementary Schools, and it is hoped that there will be no further delay in completing the work necessary to bring them into line.

In areas likely to remain unsewered further progress has been made in conversion to water carriage to efficient private disposal plants.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	Population Served	No. of Houses with		
			Pails	Cess Pits, etc.	Private Installations
Wolverley ...	901	3,139	36	42	40
Upper Arley ...	29	100	78	152	69
Ribbesford ...	—	—	8	12	16
Churchill and Blakedown ...	241	769	18	59	94
Rock ...	32	102	121	371	353
Broome ...	—	—	4	15	54
Stone ...	12	38	28	73	74
Rushock ...	4	14	26	30	14
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	199	90	89
Chaddesley Corbett ...	102	357	115	242	193
Totals ...	1,337	4,570	633	1,086	996

All shacks, etc., have been included as dwellings. Few of them have drainage arrangements.

River Pollution.

There is no improvement in the condition of the Stour. Unfortunately it is noted that the closely adjoining canal in Wolverley is showing signs of severe pollution.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	503
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	568
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	175
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	191
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	77

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	41
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	22

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

As a result of the Council's progressive building programme, the number of cases of overcrowding in the Area has been reduced to very small proportions.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases. Immunisations against Diphtheria.

The rate of immunisation against diphtheria has not materially altered and parents are continually urged to take full advantage of the available facilities.

A further 95 children under five years and 22 children from 5 to 15 years of age were given primary courses of treatment.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 81 children under one year, 9 children from two to four years, 5 children from five to fourteen years, and 7 persons over fifteen years were given primary vaccination. Seven children from five to fourteen and 11 persons over fifteen were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1957 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	—	—
Measles ...	1	42	45	112	26	6	2	234	2	—
Whooping Cough	2	8	9	7	2	—	—	28	2	—
Pneumonia ...	—	2	—	3	5	—	15	25	1	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Totals ...	3	52	54	126	34	6	18	293	6	4

Tuberculosis.

Four cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

The existing sanitary services in the area have proved satisfactory.

Having dealt with the larger groups of unfit houses, the Council are continuing to review the housing situation in each parish, and it is hoped that they will continue along these lines.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR
1 9 5 7

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Four slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	201	3	39	1.101	546
Number inspected	190	3	38	870	503
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	39	2	Nil	29	17
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	20.5	66.6	Nil	3.4	3.37
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	14
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.7

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Moribund and badly bled	30 lbs.
Distomatosis	76 lbs.
Pneumonia	39 lbs.
Tuberculosis	159 lbs.
Injury	145 lbs.
Total	449 lbs.

Milk.

There has been further evidence of the advantages gained from the wholesale pasteurisation of milk supplies. There has been no concrete evidence of the alleged sale of loose milk.

Efforts have been made to educate the consumers to clean thoroughly empty bottles before return to the retailer. This still remains a problem, but there is evidence of an improvement

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act.	Inspections
General Provisions	47	—	49
Cafes	11	—	29
Hotels and other licensed premises	33	—	81
Works Canteens	1	—	3
Dairies	21	—	64
Mobile Canteens	1	—	3
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	4
Ice Cream Retailers	30	30	28

The general standard of cleanliness at food premises continues to be very high. The improvement in facilities at licensed premises is most noticeable.

The improvement in arrangements for refreshments at one-day fixtures — such as race meetings and flower shows — has been maintained.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	26
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1957	4
Inspections	8

Contraventions Remedied :

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING.**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three, and a Contractor's lorry manned by two men.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Bedford deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	...	1,708 loads
Tipped at Trimpley	...	...	...	...	241 „
Tipped at Rock	...	...	...	...	322 „
					<hr/> 2,271 loads <hr/>

All these tips are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. and other insecticides and little nuisance has arisen from flies, crickets, etc.

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done. The tenants of the houses concerned are to be congratulated on the way in which they cope with the situation and there has been no cause to draw their attention to any matter during the year.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

Cesspools.

As the Council have been unable to continue hiring a Cesspool-emptying Vehicle, this work has been carried out by private contractors.

With the progress made and due to be made in the provision of Sewers, there is not sufficient work of this nature to warrant the purchase or permanent hire of a vehicle. The work done privately has been carried out satisfactorily and with no complaints.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is very well supplied with water from several sources. Bacteriological samples are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows :

					Fit	Unfit	Total
<i>Public Supplies Mains</i>							
Cookley Borehole	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
Elan Valley	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Stourbridge Water Board	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
South Staffs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
East Worcs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Kidderminster Corporation	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
					19	—	19
<i>Private Supplies</i>							
Wells and Springs	...	...	...	...	5	12	17

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1957.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	203
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	57
Fried Fish Premises ...	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious Disease ...	...	...	...	...	28
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	222
Premises where animals are kept ...	...	...	...	...	81
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	10
Water Courses ...	...	...	...	...	61
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	151
Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	6
Provision of Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	879
Refuse Collection ...	...	...	...	...	1,610

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants ...	...	7
Verminous houses dealt with ...	...	2

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants ...	...	12
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	...	251

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction ...	...	151
Defective drains repaired ...	...	78
New drains provided ...	...	61
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired ...	...	121
Sinks provided ...	...	51
Cesspools abolished ...	...	29

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected ...	...	19
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed ...	...	31
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired ...	...	97
Water Closets repaired ...	...	59
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.) ...	...	82
Conversions :		
Conversions of privies to W.C's ...	...	2
Conversions of pail closets to W.C's ...	...	35

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	29
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	...	...	79
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	...	...	29
Ashpits abolished	1

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	28
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses	...	316
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises	...	4
Number of other infestations dealt with	...	18
Number of complaints received	...	87

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

The housing record of the Council has always been excellent and during the year a further 40 houses were erected, making a total of 676 since the war.

Work still progresses in the re-conditioning of cottages, and the Grant Scheme has been of great assistance.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :

Private ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total								62
Total fees received								£36 2s. 6d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector.

The Cookley Printers,

Telephone
Wolverley

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